BOOK REVIEW


Diseases of the pancreas and biliary tract is an area which can be challenging for students, nurses and practicing physicians to understand and keep up to date with. The anatomy and physiology of the pancreas and biliary tract is particularly complex compared with other parts of the body. Some of the diseases affecting the pancreas and biliary tract are common, others are less so, but it is necessary to be familiar with these conditions because of their impact on patients and the potential for therapy. Our understanding of the pathophysiology of these diseases and approach to the available therapeutic options is being updated regularly by the medical literature.

Fast Facts: Diseases of the Pancreas and Biliary Tract is a concise, easy-to-read book reviewing the diseases affecting the pancreas and biliary tract. The book is well organized with a colour-coded list of chapters that can be easily followed by the reader to obtain a particular topic quickly. The book is divided into 10 chapters that review the pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and management of all of the important pancreatic and biliary diseases, both benign and malignant. The information is clearly presented in the text and there are excellent figures, illustrations and summary tables where appropriate. The authors have provided evidence-based information that is supported by the literature. At the end of each chapter, there is a list of important references.

I strongly recommend this book as a resource for the busy health care professional, both during their training and in practice. It would be a valuable asset for medical students and residents trying to learn about pancreatic and biliary tract diseases during their training, but also for practicing physicians looking after patients. Nurses and other allied health care professionals looking after both medical and surgical patients with these diseases would also find this book very useful.

Nitin Khanna MD FRCP
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario